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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 3945

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NOFORN
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/08/2034

TAGS: [PINR](#) [PGOV](#) [ES](#)

SUBJECT: (C/NF) SALVADORAN PRESIDENT FUNES'S RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE FMLN (S//NF) (C-AL9-01786)

Classified By: MICHAEL P. OWENS, ACTING DIR, INR/OPS. REASON: 1.4(C).

[1](#)1. (C/NF) WASHINGTON ANALYSTS APPRECIATE EMBASSY,S
COVERAGE OF THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF PRESIDENT FUNES'S TERM.
WE CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH FMLN
HARDLINERS WHO HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO HEAD SECURITY
INSTITUTIONS. AS TIME AND RESOURCES ALLOW, WE WOULD
APPRECIATE EMBASSY,S INSIGHT INTO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.
MANY THANKS FROM WASHINGTON.

[1](#)A. (C/NF) DOES MINISTER OF DEFENSE PAYES HAVE CLOSE
RELATIONS WITH FMLN HARDLINERS? IF SO, WITH WHOM? WHAT IS
VICE PRESIDENT SALVADOR SANCHEZ CEREN'S CURRENT RELATIONSHIP
WITH FMLN HARDLINERS? HOW DOES HE GET ALONG WITH FUNES?

[1](#)B. (C/NF) IS FUNES CONSIDERING CONFRONTING FMLN HARDLINERS
WHOM HE BELIEVES ARE UNDERMINING HIM? HOW IS FUNES COPING
UNDER STRESS?

[1](#)C. (C/NF) WHO ARE CURRENTLY THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FMLN
LEADERS? HOW DO THEY VIEW FUNES? HOW DOES FUNES VIEW THEM?
WHAT PLANS DO THEY HAVE, IF ANY, TO STRENGTHEN THE FMLN'S
INFLUENCE?

[1](#)D. (C/NF) HAVE KEY SECURITY ORGANIZATION BUDGETS CHANGED?
IF SO, TO WHAT EXTENT?

[1](#)E. (C/NF) HOW DO AVERAGE SALVADORANS SEE FUNES'S ACTIONS TO
REDUCE CRIME, SPECIFICALLY THE MURDER RATE, IN THE COUNTRY?
DO FMLN HARDLINERS IN GOVERNMENT VIEW THE ISSUE AS A KEY
PRIORITY? WHAT IS THE MOST RECENT OFFICIAL HOMICIDE RATE?

[1](#)2. (U) PLEASE CITE C-AL9-01786 IN THE SUBJECT LINE OF
REPORTING IN RESPONSE TO THE ABOVE QUESTIONS.
CLINTON